

Juvenile Justice Commission
Thursday, October 20, 2022
Shasta County Juvenile Probation Conference Room
1810 Market Street Redding, California
Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Troy Foster, **Chairman**
Betty Cunningham
Steve MacFarland
Barbara Van Dyke
Cindy Vogt
Jackson Crupi
Susan Duncan
Jennifer Coulter
Steve Morgan

Others Present

Tracie Neal, **Probation**
Chelsey Chappelle, **Probation**
Twyla Carpenter, **Probation**
Carla Stevens, **Probation**
Jeremy Kenyon, **Probation**
Dennis Hoerning, **Probation**
Daren Fisher, **Probation**
Ivan Sevilla, **Probation**
Rick Carl, **Probation**
Danielle Gehrung, **GEO Group**
Jackie Durant, **Hope City**
Susan Wilson, **Youth Options**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Troy Foster. A quorum was present.

2. Welcome & Introductions

3. Commission members will review and approve minutes from the April 21st, 2022, meeting

Steve MacFarland moved to approve the minutes. Betty Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

4. Introduction of New Juvenile Probation Officers

Tracie Neal introduced Rick Carl. Rick provided the commission information about his background and aspirations as a Probation Officer for the Adult Probation Division. Next Tracie introduced Mahala Rogers. Mahala also provided the commission information about her background and goals as a Probation Officer. Lastly, Ivan Sevilla was introduced to the commission. Ivan too spoke about his background and aspirations as a Probation Officer. Chelsey stated that there is one Deputy Probation Officer vacancy to be filled.

Tracie Neal then introduced Daren Fisher, the new Chief Fiscal Officer for Probation. Daren informed the committee briefly about his background and aspirations.

5. Probation Reports

a. Juvenile Probation Division

Director Jeremy Kenyon reported that the Juvenile Probation Division has been busy recently. There are two new Juvenile Prevention Officer positions; one at West Valley High School and the other at North Valley High School. Jeremy also mentioned a couple of staff are working extended hours to assist with the facilitation of juvenile programming after school and in the evenings at the Juvenile Division.

b. Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility (JRF)

Chelsey Chappelle reported for the JRF, as Director Carla Stevens was unable to be present at the meeting. She reported that the JRF population has risen and is now at thirty-two residents. Five of the residents are out-of-county youth from Lassen County. The JRF has seen increased bookings of violent, difficult to control youth. School has been going well and the new Principal, Carie Webb, and new Vice Principal, Cheyenne, have been very helpful.

Chelsey mentioned the JRF recently received a 20-year-old resident who we believe may be in the JRF for an extended period of time. This youth is difficult and brings along challenges for the facility. Susan Duncan asked about why a twenty-year old resident was in the JRF. Chelsey responded that twenty is within the age range for residents in the JRF. Jackson Crupi asked if the twenty-year-old person committed their crime as a juvenile. Chelsey replied that this person did.

Chairman Steve McFarland asked what COVID levels in the JRF were like. Chelsey replied by stating that they currently have no active COVID cases. Steve then asked if the residents are getting the COVID vaccines. Chelsey responded that Juvenile Hall does provide vaccines to the youth that want them, with their parents' permission.

Chelsey provided an update regarding the transition from Wellpath to Shasta Community Health as a medical provider for the JRF. This occurred July 1st, and she commended the helpful, very involved care Shasta Community Health has been providing to the residents. Chelsey also noted that many of the residents were already patients of Shasta Community Health Center which made the transition even easier.

Chelsey also mentioned there is an open recruitment for Juvenile Detention Officers.

- **River's Edge Academy (REA)**

Tracie Neal stated that there are ten juveniles currently in REA. She then introduced Danielle Gehrung of GEO Group. Danielle recently completed an annual report. She then relayed her report's findings to the commission in a presentation. Danielle went over classifications, demographics, an adolescent thinking scale, ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences), cognitive behavioral treatments, and employment opportunities. She mentioned they have received twenty-one referrals, with eleven enrollments. Practicing new behaviors, she noted, is something that the residents really enjoy doing.

Jennifer Coulter asked Danielle what the turnout was like for the alumni of the program. Danielle replied that it was good, with three youth attending out of seven graduates.

Jackson Crupi asked about the requirements a juvenile need to enter GEO. Jeremy Kenyon stated that GEO's services are available to a juvenile once they enter REA.

Steve MacFarland asked for an overview of GEO Reentry Services. Danielle provided an overview of the GEO company indicating an overall focus on providing quality services, evidence-based practices, and cognitive behavioral treatment.

Betty Cunningham had a question about re-entry for students for post-graduation, post release. Danielle replied that staff utilize an email to text option, meeting youth face to face, and youth visits to the GEO office whenever they can. Jeremy Kenyon stressed the bigger impact graduates of GEO have with current REA residents. Tracie Neal pointed out that one of the GEO staff, Travis Withrow, is now serving as a Juvenile Detention Officer in the JRF.

- **Shasta County Probation Department Secure Track Treatment Program (STTP)**

Jeremy Kenyon stated that two youth have been sentenced to the STTP program in Shasta County. One resident is scheduled to be released on supervision soon. Another youth has been experiencing challenges with the program, showing little motivation due to a lengthy confinement sentence.

Jennifer Coulter asked if Jeremy could give her a number for juveniles slated to enter the STTP program. Tracie informed her of the juvenile re-alignment plan to be presented to the Juvenile Justice Subcommittee meeting on November 17th. A daunting task lies ahead, with five youth still at the Department of Juvenile Justice who will not be paroled by the time the state closes the DJJ. Tracie stressed the importance of Probation working with their justice partners on a plan for these youth prior to their return to the JRF.

Tracie Neal mentioned Probation working on a contract amendment with GEO to provide a behavioral staff to the 900 pod STTP youth. She said the CEO's office has approved another Supervising Probation Officer position for the JRF which will also support the STTP. Deputy Probation Officer III Angel Marshall has just been designated to serve the STTP population of the JRF.

Tracie Neal also brought up the annual inspections by the BSCC and OYCR, the new entity for oversight. She also is on a committee that will discuss new regulations for the STTP population to be implemented by the end of the fiscal year. Tracie discussed the grants dollars for facility improvements. The JRF will receive technological upgrades to the security system as well as new radios. The second project includes the demolition of the old juvenile hall and construction of new facilities in its place.

Jennifer Coulter brought up the availability of extra space in juvenile hall. Tracie responded by stating that the JRF has thirty-five to forty youth currently and is funded to hold up to fifty-five youth between the three pods. Chelsey added by stating one recent challenge has been having to move juveniles between pods often due to mental needs or violence. These challenges are also concerning considering the return of the youth in the DJJ. Chelsey provided an example of one youth who started a fire in their room at DJJ. Susan Duncan asked how this juvenile was able to do this. Tracie replied that they started the fire by using an electrical plug. Barbara Van Dyke asked about next steps for this troubled juvenile. Tracie stated that they will return to juvenile hall for mental health support and medication. Tracie mentioned transitional housing for juvenile programs has been a challenge. Some discussion occurred regarding local options for transitional housing. Susan Duncan asked about other counties and what they are doing to address the issue. Tracie responded by stating that in larger counties their probation departments are buying and running transitional housing. Other counties are opening their own short term residential treatment facilities. Cindy Vogt asked if this was comparable to REA.

Tracie stated that she believes it would be. The BSCC has some money set aside for that, the details of how that will be spent will be forthcoming.

6. Judge's Comments

No comments. Judge Bigelow was unable to attend the meeting.

7. Discussion Items

None

8. Action Items

a. Consider approving the annual JRF Inspection Report.

Steve MacFarland and Jennifer Coulter thanked those who completed the report. Cindy Vogt asked about a question on page four of the report concerning safe storage of chemicals and secure storage areas being marked “no”. Chelsey and Susan responded by stating those two areas were addressed but not physically seen. It was then agreed that more specific language should be used. Tracie stated that the question involving gutters with roofs and drains could also use more clarification, as the JRF has no gutters.

Jennifer Coulter motioned to accept the report with changes. Steve MacFarland seconded. Motion passed.

9. Commission Member Comments

Jackson Crupi gave a brief report on Central Valley High School. He reported no instances of drug or alcohol abuse at his school since his last report. Jackson also reported that violence at Central Valley has been neutral, shifting from physical to more verbal confrontations between students. He shared about his school's upcoming homecoming dance and football game. He is also soon to start work at Viking Skate Country, which he is excited for because it will allow him to connect more with youth.

Steve MacFarland asked Tracie about the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR)'s visit to the JRF last August. Tracie provided a brief overview of the visit. Further discussion occurred regarding the OYCR asking about Shasta County partnering with UC campuses, to provide UC college classes to the youth. The committee discussed at length the challenges and potential options for providing educational opportunities to our youth. During their visit the OYCR also brought up the Credible Messenger Program to Probation officials. Tracie said Probation is not currently interested in this program but

is committed to providing peer support staff. The OYCR also had questions revolving one juvenile stepping down from a restrictive to less restrictive placement. Tracie noted that Shasta County is the only county in California that has done this. Tracie stated overall the visit went well.

10. Other Business

Steve MacFarland mentioned his upcoming campaign for re-election to the Shasta County Board of Education. Jackson Crupi asked if the Board is looking for any student board members. Steve replied that the Board currently is not recruiting for new youth members.

Next meeting scheduled for January 19th, 2023, at 3:00pm in the conference room at Juvenile Probation, 1810 Market Street in Redding, California.

11. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned by Troy Foster at 4:23pm.